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ABSTRACT

To stress one of this nation's greatest strengths--its ability to form groups or partnerships to solve problems, such as providing quality education to rural America--academic year 1983-84 was proclaimed "National Year of Partnerships in Education." The Intra-Agency Committee on Rural Education, composed of representatives of the 14 major offices within the Department of Education, is one those partnerships. Further, a new Department policy declared that "rural education shall receive an equitable share of the information, services, assistance, and funds available from and through the Department of Education and its programs." This policy then listed 10 initiatives such as monitoring, expanding data bases, including rural institutions in pilot projects, and others. An annual rural forum is also sponsored; last year's forum included Iowa's model program in its 21 exemplary projects. These projects included partnerships involving corporations and communities, schools and townships, etc. All of the successful programs have clearly defined needs and goals. To propogate this success, the Intra-Agency Committee has created four subcommittees on the annual forum, research, data and staff seminars, and the Secretary's awards program. As rural economies become more diversified, and as urban-rural migration continues, new partnerships will help assure that rural communities have quality education. (PM)

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NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN RURAL EDUCATION

BY

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
VOCATIONAL AND ADULT EDUCATION

BEFORE
IOWA STATEWIDE
RURAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

AMES, IOWA

APRIL 2, 1985

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NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN RURAL EDUCATION

ONCE AGAIN, I HAVE THE HONOR AND PLEASURE OF ADDRESSING MY COLLEAGUES AND PARTNERS IN THE NATIONAL EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO AMERICA'S HEARTLAND - ITS RURAL COMMUNITIES. OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, I HAVE HAD THE HONOR AND PRIVILEGE OF MAKING PRESENTATIONS AT A NUMBER OF GATHERINGS OF SUPPORTERS OF RURAL EDUCATION. AT THOSE MEETINGS, AS AT THIS ONE, THE GREAT DIVERSITY OF OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES AND THIS NATION AS A WHOLE HAS BEEN CLEARLY EVIDENT.

I COMMEND GOVERNOR TERRY BRANSTAD FOR THE LEADERSHIP THAT HE IS DEMONSTRATING IN SUPPORT OF THIS GREAT STATE'S EFFORTS IN BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION IN RURAL IOWA. MAY I ALSO EXTEND MY APPRECIATION TO DR. JAMES JESS, CO-CHAIR OF THIS CONFERENCE AND PAST PRESIDENT OF THE RURAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, FOR THE INVITATION TO ADDRESS THIS VERY SIGNIFICANT GATHERING HERE TODAY. AS MANY OF YOU MAY KNOW, JIM SERVED ON THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION-SPONSORED NATIONAL RURAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE HELD LAST JUNE IN WASHINGTON. AS SUCH, HE WAS A MAJOR ARCHITECT IN THE DESIGN OF THAT NATIONAL CONFERENCE, INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS THEME, "BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION IN RURAL AMERICA." I BELIEVE THAT I CAN SAFELY SAY THAT IT IS NO COINCIDENCE THAT THERE IS A SIMILARITY BETWEEN THE THEME AND ORGANIZATION OF YOUR CONFERENCE HERE TODAY WITH THAT

OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE, RATHER, IT IS DUE LARGELY TO THE INFLUENCE THAT JIM HAS HAD IN ITS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HIS CHAIRMANSHIP OF ITS STATEWIDE PLANNING COMMITTEE.

MANY YEARS AGO, A VISITOR TO THIS GREAT NATION OF OURS, ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE, SET OUT TO DETERMINE WHAT IS OUR NATION'S STRENGTH. AFTER MANY DAYS OF TRAVELING ACROSS THIS COUNTRY, MEETING AND TALKING WITH MANY AMERICANS AND OBSERVING HOW WE DO THINGS HERE, OUR VISITOR DREW THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSION: THAT THE GENIUS OF AMERICA AND THE KEY TO ITS STRENGTH WAS THE ABILITY OF AMERICANS, TO AN EXTENT THAT DID NOT EXIST IN OTHER COUNTRIES, TO FORM GROUPS (PARTNERSHIPS) TO ACHIEVE SOME COMMONLY AGREED UPON PURPOSE, OR TO RESPOND TO SOME SOCIETAL CHANGE.

THAT TO ME IS A RATHER PROFOUND AND REASSURING OBSERVATION. PROFOUND, BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT WE AMERICANS DO TAKE PRIDE IN OURS BEING A FORWARD LOOKING NATION AND ONE THAT CAN ACCOMMODATE CHANGE. REASSURING, IN THAT IF WE GIVE ANY CREDIBILITY TO OUR VISITOR'S OBSERVATION, WE ARE <u>INDEED</u> WHAT WE'VE STRIVEN TO BE - A FORWARD LOOKING NATION THAT CAN ADJUST TO CHANGE. MOREOVER, BIOLOGISTS HAVE HELD THAT THE ABILITY OF A SPECIES TO SURVIVE IS LINKED TO ITS ABILITY TO ADJUST TO CHANGES IN ITS ENVIRONMENT. THESE FACTS BODE WELL FOR OUR SURVIVAL AS A NATION.

THE CALL TO BUILD NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN RURAL EDUCATION HAS COME FROM VIRTUALLY EVERY SECTOR OF OUR SOCIETY, INCLUDING THE WHITE HOUSE. IN A PROCLAMATION ISSUED ON OCTOBER 3, 1983, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES EXHORTED THE NATION TO FORM NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN EDUCATION BETWEEN THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. IN THE PROCLAMATION, THE PRESIDENT STATED:

> "AMERICA'S FUTURE IS DEPENDENT UPON THE HEALTH AND VITALITY OF HER EDUCATION SYSTEM. ALTHOUGH THOUSANDS OF BUSINESSES, INDUSTRIES, INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE EDUCATION OF OUR YOUTH, THERE IS MORE WORK TO BE DONE. MORE PEOPLE MUST BECOME ACTIVE IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN OUR NATION... I CALL UPON BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS, INDIVIDUALS, AND AGENCIES TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH THEIR LOCAL SCHOOLS."

AS YOU KNOW, HE PROCLAIMED THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1983-84 AS "THE NATIONAL YEAR OF PARTNERSHIPS IN EDUCATION" AND INVITED ALL AMERICANS TO JOIN HIM IN HIS COMMITMENT TO THE EXCELLENCE AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION OFFERED TO ALL AMERICANS.

AS MANY OF YOU MAY KNOW, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S RURAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE WAS UNDERTAKEN IN RESPONSE TO LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S ORGANIZATION ACT --THE LEGISLATION THAT CREATED THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. SECTION 206 OF THE ACT DIRECTED THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, WORKING THROUGH THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR VOCATIONAL AND ADULT EDUCATION, "TO PROVIDE A UNIFORM APPROACH TO RURAL EDUCATION AND RURAL FAMILY EDUCATION THROUGH THE COORDINATION OF PROGRAMS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT, AND TO WORK WITH THE FEDERAL INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION (FICE) TO COORDINATE RELATED ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS OF OTHER FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES." THE CONGRESS, WITHOUT USING THE TERM "PARTNERSHIP" IN SECTION 206, WAS ACTUALLY FOSTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN RURAL EDUCATION WITHIN THE FEDERAL ESTABLISHMENT. THEN -SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, DR. T.H. BELL, CREATED A NEW PARTNERSHIP IN RURAL EDUCATION THAT HE NAMED THE INTRA-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON RURAL EDUCATION. I WAS APPOINTED CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE BECAUSE OF MY POSITION AS THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR VOCATIONAL AND ADULT EDUCATION. THE COMMITTEE IS COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 14 PRINCIPAL OFFICES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION: FOR EXAMPLE, HIGHER EDUCATION, SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, AND OTHERS.

THE FEDERAL INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, DETERMINED THAT THE NEW INTER-AGENCY PARTNERSHIP IN RURAL EDUCATION SHOULD BE A RURAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE -- AGAIN CHAIRED BY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR VOCATIONAL AND ADULT EDUCATION. THIS SUBCOMMITTEE INVOLVES 17 DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, INTERIOR, LABOR, TRANSPORTATION, AND COMMERCE.

IN MY ROLE AS CHAIR OF THESE TWO NEW PARTNERSHIPS, I APPOINTED DR. DUANE M. NIELSEN OF MY STAFF, WHO IS BOTH A PRODUCT OF RURAL AMERICA AND RURAL EDUCATION, AS MY VICE-CHAIR. MANY OF YOU HERE KNOW WELL DUANE'S COMMITMENT AND CONTRIBUTION TO RURAL EDUCATION. ROBERT MARSHALL, ALSO OF MY STAFF, WAS APPOINTED AS STAFF TO BOTH BODIES AS PART OF HIS FULL-TIME RESPONSIBILITIES IN RURAL EDUCATION.

WHEN HE APPOINTED THE COMMITTEE, THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION GAVE IT A SPECIFIC TASK TO PERFORM: DEVELOP A COHERENT NATIONAL RURAL EDUCATION POLICY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. IN CARRYING OUT THIS CHARGE, THE COMMITTEE RECOGNIZED THE FOLLOWING:

1. IT SHOULD BE THE POSITION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROMOTE EQUITY FOR RURAL EDUCATION.

2. THE POLICY SHOULD PROMOTE NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN RURAL EDUCATION INVOLVING STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. IT MUST ALSO ADDRESS ISSUES IN RURAL EDUCATION, LONG IDENTIFIED BY RURAL EDUCATORS AND OTHER SUPPORTERS OF RURAL EDUCATION.

3. A FORMAL STATEMENT SHOULD BE PREPARED AND SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL THROUGH ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES, IN WHICH EVERY PRINCIPAL OFFICE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT IS AFFORDED INPUT INTO THE POLICY'S FINAL DEVELOPMENT. AND THEN IT SHOULD BE OFFICIALLY ISSUED AS A DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION POLICY DECLARATION AFTER APPROVAL AND SIGNING BY THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.

4. A PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE JUSTIFICATION PACKAGE THAT IS ROUTINELY PREPARED TO ACCOMPANY ANY PROPOSAL SUBMITTED FOR THE SECRETARY'S APPROVAL.

THEREFORE, THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED, AND THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION APPROVED, THE ARTICULATION OF A NATIONAL RURAL EDUCATION POLICY BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WHICH PLEDGED THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ASSURE THAT, "RURAL EDUCATION SHALL RECEIVE AN EQUITABLE SHARE OF THE INFORMATION, SERVICES, ASSISTANCE, AND FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM AND THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND ITS PROGRAMS."

THE POLICY STATEMENT LISTED TEN INITIATIVES WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WOULD UNDERTAKE, "TO THE EXTENT THAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AND APPLICABLE FEDERAL LEGISLATION PERMIT." THE FIRST INITIATIVE COMMITS THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN RURAL EDUCATION WITH INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE NON-FEDERAL SECTOR BY COMMITTING THE DEPARTMENT TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. ASSIST EDUCATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS ON ALL LEVELS ...TO IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO RURAL COMMUNITIES.

NINE OTHER INITIATIVES WERE IDENTIFIED THAT WOULD HELP ADDRESS THE RESEARCH, INFORMATION SHARING, AND OTHER ISSUES PERTAINING TO RURAL EDUCATION:

2. WORK TO EXPAND THE DATA BASE ON THE CONDITION OF EDUCATION IN RURAL AREAS... TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAMS SERVING RURAL COMMUNITIES.

3. MONITOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS... TO INSURE EQUITY FOR ALL LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES REGARDLESS OF SIZE, LOCATION, OR CONDITION.

4. ASSIST IN IDENTIFYING AND DEVELOPING SPECIAL PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS LOCATED IN RURAL AREAS.

5. PROVIDE PERSONNEL TO COORDINATE THE CONSOLIDATION OF AVAILABLE RESEARCH ON SHORTAGES AND ADDITIONAL NEEDS FOR ANALYSIS BY THE SECRETARY'S RURAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

6. INCLUDE RURAL INSTITUTIONS IN DEMONSTRATION AND PILOT PROJECTS, AND INVOLVE CROSS SECTIONS OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLANNING.

7. PROVIDE CONSULTATIVE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO RURAL EDUCATIONAL ENTITIES AS A MEANS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN RURAL AREAS. TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT WILL SUPPORT INITIATIVES SUCH AS AN ANNUAL FORUM.

8. ASSIST IN IMPROVING PUBLIC SECTOR/PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION BY COORDINATING NETWORKS AT LOCAL, REGIONAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL LEVELS.

9. ASSIST RURAL EDUCATION IN IMPROVING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF BLACK STUDENTS, AMERICAN INDIANS, MIGRANT WORKERS, AND OTHER MINORITIES.

10. ASSIST INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES LIVING IN RURAL AREAS WITH FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THROUGH VOCATIONAL HOME ECONOMICS...

ONE THING THAT I SHOULD POINT OUT ABOUT THE INITIATIVES CONTAINED IN THE POLICY STATEMENT IS THE IMPLICIT RECOGNITION THAT EDUCATION IS A STATE AND LOCAL ENTERPRISE, (THE FEDERAL OUTLAY IS ONLY 8 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL FIGURE SPENT ON EDUCATION) WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ROLE BEING ONE OF A FACILITATOR. OUR MISSION IS CLEARLY IDENTIFIED AS BEING A SUPPORTIVE ONE. WE CAN DO SOME THINGS THAT ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF STATE AND LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES TO IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO RURAL COMMUNITIES. IN CASE ANY OF YOU ARE WONDERING IF THIS EMPHASIS HAS CHANGED WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, PLEASE BE REASSURED. ENHANCING THE ABILITY OF STATE AND LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES TO PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION, HAS BEEN LISTED BY THE NEW SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, DR. WILLIAM BENNETT, AS ONE OF HIS TOP PRIORITIES.

IF I MAY, I'D LIKE TO TALK MORE ABOUT ONE OF THOSE INITIATIVES OUTLINED IN THE POLICY STATEMENT -- THE SPONSORSHIP OF AN ANNUAL FORUM ON RURAL EDUCATION. MANY OF YOU HERE MAY HAVE ATTENDED OUR NATIONAL RURAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE LAST YEAR IN WASHINGTON, D.C. I MUST COMMEND ALL OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCE

FOR THEIR ENERGY, ENTHUSIASM, AND DEDICATION. THESE QUALITIES HAVE BEEN IN ABUNDANT EVIDENCE TO ME WHENEVER I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT WITH RURAL EDUCATORS LIKE YOURSELF AND THE PEOPLE YOU SERVE. THESE SAME QUALITIES ARE IN EVIDENCE HERE TODAY.

WHAT YOU MAY NOT REALIZE, HOWEVER, IS SOMETHING THAT I OFTEN LIKE TO POINT OUT. THE PLANNING OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE LAST YEAR, LIKE THE PLANNING OF YOUR CONFERENCE, WAS A PARTNERSHIP EFFORT. THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE WAS PLANNED BY 26 "PARTNERS" REPRESENTING STATE AND LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES, RURAL EDUCATION ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS, COLLEGE PRESIDENTS, THE U.S. DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE, AND THE CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS.

THE CONFERENCE WAS A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS. THE PROGRAM PRESENTERS INCLUDED TWO MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENTS CABINET, A GOVERNOR, A CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICER, A U.S. CONGRESSMAN, A WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL, A HIGH LEVEL STATE EDUCATION OFFICIAL, LOCAL EDUCATION OFFICIALS, AND OTHER RECOGNIZED LEADERS. LIKE YOUR CONFERENCE, A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES WERE PART OF THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM, INCLUDING A CONGRESSIONAL RECEPTION AND THE PRESENTATION OF 21 EXEMPLARY PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION PROJECTS. IOWA'S OWN MODEL

RURAL COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM, HEADQUARTERED IN FOREST CITY, I AM PLEASED TO ADD, WAS ONE OF THOSE 21 EXEMPLARY PROJECTS.

THE 21 PARTNERSHIPS WE FEATURED AT THE NATIONAL RURAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE, AND THE EXTENSIVE ACTIVITY BY THE STATE TEAMS SINCE THE CONFERENCE, ARE STRONG INDICATORS OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PARTNERSHIPS IN ENHANCING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN RURAL OR ISOLATED AREAS. THEY RANGE FROM A PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM BETWEEN THE EIGHT NATIVE VILLAGES OF THE NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH OF ALASKA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA'S RURAL EDUCATION UNIT -- WHICH IS TRAINING RESIDENTS OF THE NORTH SLOPE TO FILL SKILLED JOBS IN THEIR ARCTIC COMMUNITIES -- TO A MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH HEWLETT PACKARD CORPORATION WHICH SERVES RURAL AND REMOTE NORTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA THROUGH A COMPLEX, CLOSED-CIRCUIT ITFS/MICROWAVE INTERACTIVE PROGRAM WITH 16 REMOTE LEARNING CENTERS SERVICING 33,000 SQUARE MILES (APPROXIMATELY 21% OF THE AREA OF THE STATE). SOME PARTNERSHIPS INVOLVE MAJOR CORPORATIONS SUCH AS HEWLETT PACKARD OR CONTROL DATA IN YOUR OWN EXEMPLARY PROGRAM AT FOREST CITY, IOWA. OTHERS ARE TOTALLY SMALL-COMMUNITY CONTAINED, SUCH AS THE BROOKS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM AT QUITMAN, GEORGIA; THE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AT MARLAN EMMONS MCKEOWN SCHOOL IN HAMPTON TOWNSHIP,

NEW JERSEY, A SMALL K-6 SCHOOL DISTRICT IN SUSSEX COUNTY CONTAINING ONLY ONE SCHOOL; OR THE EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT THE KICKAPOO NATIONAL SCHOOL, AT POWHATTAN, KANSAS.

EXAMINATION OF THESE DIVERSE, BUT SUCCESSFUL, PARTNERSHIPS REVEAL THAT THEY HAVE COMMON CHARACTERISTICS. THEY HAVE CLEARLY DEFINED NEEDS AND A RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MEETING THOSE NEEDS BY PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.

EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS NEED TO:

1. TRANSLATE THOSE IDENTIFIED NEEDS INTO CLEAR ATTAINABLE OBJECTIVES.
2. OUTLINE THE PROCEDURES TO BE USED TO ACHIEVE THOSE OBJECTIVES.
3. SPELL OUT EACH PARTNER'S ANTICIPATED BENEFIT AND OBLIGATION UNDER THE AGREEMENT..

THIS NATIONAL CONFERENCE WAS SUCH A SUCCESS, IT IS CLEAR TO ME, BECAUSE THE PARTNERSHIP THAT WAS FORMED TO PLAN AND CONDUCT IT HAD THE THREE CHARACTERISTICS THAT I JUST MENTIONED.

DURING THE CONFERENCE, CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED THAT THE NATIONAL RURAL EDUCATION POLICY STATEMENT WOULD PROVE TO BE "MERE WORDS ON PAPER." IN MY CLOSING REMARKS AT THE CONFERENCE, I ATTEMPTED TO ADDRESS THAT CONCERN BY DETAILING SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HAD UNDERTAKEN AT THAT TIME IN SUPPORT OF THE POLICY STATEMENT. SUBSEQUENT TO THE CONFERENCE, THE INTRA-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON RURAL EDUCATION SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY ITS 1984 FISCAL YEAR REPORT ON THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S RURAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES. IT WAS THE THIRD IN THE SERIES OF ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S RURAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES THAT THE COMMITTEE HAS PREPARED AND SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY DURING ITS THREE YEAR EXISTENCE.

THE REPORT CONTAINED AN INCREASED NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES COMPARED TO THE 1983 FISCAL YEAR REPORT. THOUGH MUCH OF THE INCREASE CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO A GREATER EFFORT BY THE VARIOUS PRINCIPAL OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO IDENTIFY RURAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES IN PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THEM, A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE INCREASE IS SIMPLY DUE TO AN INCREASED LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA BY THESE OFFICES IN RESPONSE TO THE LEADERSHIP PROVIDED BY THE INTRA-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON RURAL EDUCATION, AND TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE POLICY STATEMENT.

THE DEPARTMENT'S INTRA-AGENCY COMMITTEE IS NOW IMPLEMENTING ITS 1985 MANAGEMENT PLAN DESIGNED TO CARRY OUT SEVERAL OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE POLICY STATEMENT. SUCH AS:

1. TO CONDUCT A NATIONAL FORUM ON RURAL EDUCATION.

2. TO DEVELOP A PROPOSAL FOR INITIATING A "SECRETARY'S AWARD FOR RURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS."

3. TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A DEMONSTRATION AND RESEARCH EFFORT IN RURAL EDUCATION.

4. TO PLAN AND CONDUCT A SERIES OF BRIEFING SEMINARS FOR DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES ON THE DEPARTMENT'S RURAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.

5. TO CONTINUE IN FISCAL YEAR 1985 MANY OF THE ACTIVITIES BEGUN IN PREVIOUS YEARS, INCLUDING COORDINATION OF THE MANY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS WHICH HAVE AN IMPACT ON RURAL EDUCATION OR RURAL/ISOLATED AREAS.

TO CARRY OUT THESE OBJECTIVES, WE HAVE ESTABLISHED THE FOLLOWING SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. NATIONAL RURAL EDUCATION FORUM PLANNING COMMITTEE
2. SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH
3. SUBCOMMITTEE ON DATA, ISSUE-PAPERS, AND STAFF SEMINARS
4. SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE SECRETARY'S AWARDS PROGRAM

COMPARED TO THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE SPONSORED LAST YEAR, THE 1985 NATIONAL RURAL EDUCATION FORUM WILL BE MUCH SMALLER. IT WILL BE A KNOWLEDGE GENERATING EVENT WITH A MAXIMUM OF 100 PARTICIPANTS. THE FORMAT FOR THE FORUM WILL CONSIST OF THE PRESENTATION OF TEN ISSUE PAPERS WITH REACTIONS AND COMMENTS BY A PANEL OF REACTOR/ REVIEWERS. THESE PAPERS, AND REACTIONS, WILL BE INCLUDED IN A FORUM REPORT.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HAS A NEW PROGRAM ENTITLED, "SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM." A NUMBER OF PRINCIPAL OFFICES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ARE REQUIRED TO COMMIT FUNDS TO THIS PROGRAM. THIS YEAR, THERE ARE 12 MAJOR RESEARCH AREAS, INCLUDING VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS. EACH MAJOR RESEARCH AREA EMBODIES A LIST OF

SUGGESTED SUBTOPICS. THIS YEAR, I HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN HAVING THE FOLLOWING SUB-TOPIC ADDED UNDER VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS:

> DEVELOPMENT OF MICRO-COMPUTER SOFTWARE TO PROVIDE BASIC INFORMATION AND SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE FOR THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING OF PROSPECTIVE ENTREPRENEURS IN RURAL/ISOLATED AREAS.

ANOTHER INTERAGENCY EFFORT SUPPORTING RURAL EDUCATION THAT WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN IS THE COSPONSORSHIP, WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, OF A NATIONWIDE STUDY OF SECONDARY SCHOOL AGRICULTURE EDUCATION TO DETERMINE ITS ROLE IN PROVIDING A CONTINUED SOURCE OF ADEQUATELY PREPARED PERSONNEL TO STAFF THE NATION'S AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE. THIS EXAMINATION WOULD ALSO CONSIDER CRUCIAL FACTORS IN MAINTAINING STRONG AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TO DETERMINE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

WE ARE FORMING NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN THE INTEREST OF RURAL EDUCATION. WE ARE RESTRUCTURING OLD PARTNERSHIPS TO SERVE RURAL EDUCATION BETTER IN THE FUTURE. WE ARE TALKING TO OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES AND LEARNING MORE ABOUT THEIR EFFORTS IN RURAL

EDUCATION. WE ARE DISCOVERING, EVERYDAY, NEW RESOURCES IN RURAL EDUCATION. WE ARE DISCUSSING AND FORMULATING NEW INNOVATIVE WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS ON THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS.

IN PREPARING FOR THIS PRESENTATION, I HAD ONE OF MY STAFF REVIEW IOWA'S CURRENT STATE PLAN FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TO PROVIDE ME WITH SOME INSIGHT ON YOUR STATE'S EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ISSUES AS YOU SEE THEM. THE IOWA STATE PLAN, DEVELOPED UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SUPERINTENDENT BOB BENTON AND STATE DIRECTOR JIM ATHEN, IS ONE OF THE BEST IN THE NATION. IN THAT DOCUMENT, WHICH WAS SUBMITTED IN 1982 TO COVER THE FIVE YEARS FROM 1982 THRU 1987, YOU PROJECTED AN INCREASING AVAILABILITY OF JOBS IN THE NON-AGRICULTURAL SECTOR OF IOWA'S ECONOMY. IN SHORT, YOU FORESAW A TREND IN IOWA'S ECONOMY TOWARD INCREASING DIVERSITY, WHERE THE NUMBER OF JOBS IN THE AGRICULTURALLY RELATED OCCUPATIONS WILL BE INCREASINGLY AUGMENTED BY A GROWTH IN JOBS IN OTHER SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY.

YOUR EXPERIENCE IS IN LINE WITH THE NATIONAL EXPERIENCE. RURAL ECONOMIES ARE BECOMING MORE DIVERSIFIED. FURTHERMORE, COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY WILL PLAY AN INCREASING FUTURE ROLE IN THE HEALTH AND VITALITY OF BOTH THE RURAL AND NATIONAL ECONOMIES. RECOGNITION OF THIS FACT PROBABLY ACCOUNTS IN LARGE PART FOR ONE RESULT REPORTED FROM A STUDENT INTEREST SURVEY THAT WAS INCLUDED IN THE

STATE PLAN. COMPUTER PROGRAMMING WAS LISTED AS THE THIRD HIGHEST CAREER TRAINING PREFERENCE BY STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE SURVEY. THOUGH IT DID NOT PLACE QUITE AS HIGH IN THE JOB PROJECTION SURVEY IN THE PLAN, THIS IMPORTANT TREND IN STUDENT DEMAND FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED BY RURAL EDUCATORS. IT IS APPARENT THAT THE YOUNGER GENERATION IN IOWA IS ANTICIPATING INCREASED OPPORTUNITY IN COMPUTER-RELATED FIELDS. WITH A CERTAIN SENSE OF PRIDE, I ALSO NOTE THAT YOU PROJECTED THAT FULLY 75% OF THE ANTICIPATED NEW JOBS WILL BE FILLED BY GRADUATES OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

I REALIZE THAT YOU ARE QUITE AWARE OF THESE FACTS. I ONLY NOTE THEM TO SAY THAT CHANGE IS IN THE AIR. IT IS INCUMBENT UPON US, IN THE BEST AMERICAN TRADITION, TO FORM NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN RURAL EDUCATION TO ACCOMMODATE THE CHANGES WHICH DAILY MANIFEST THEMSELVES EVER MORE PROFOUNDLY ON US AND OUR COMMUNITIES.

SPEAKING OF IOWA, BASED ON MY PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND THE INFORMATION AND FEEDBACK THAT I HAVE RECEIVED FROM SUCH NOTABLES AS BILL NORRIS OF CONTROL DATA AND JOHN HANSON OF WINNEBAGO INDUSTRIES, IT IS CLEAR TO ME THAT YOU ARE MAKING GREAT STRIDES IN EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO IOWA'S RURAL COMMUNITIES. IOWA HAS AN OUTSTANDING REPUTATION

NATIONALLY FOR ITS STRONG EDUCATION PROGRAM. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTINUE THE GOOD WORK. YOU HAVE BEGUN TO BUILD STRONG PARTNERSHIPS WITH BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY AND ALL SECTORS OF EDUCATION. WE IN WASHINGTON ARE VERY IMPRESSED BY YOUR EFFORTS IN IOWA, SPEARHEADED BY SUPERINTENDENT BOB BENTON AND THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, TO PROMOTE AND FACILITATE PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH AREA PLANNING COUNCILS, FOR EXAMPLE:

1. JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS WITH BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY.

2. CURRICULA IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT BY INVOLVING BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY.

YOU ARE BEGINNING TO INCREASINGLY EMPLOY THE MAGIC AND POWER OF STATE-OF-THE-ART COMPUTER AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY. THE IOWA COMPUTERIZED CAREER INFORMATION SYSTEM IS ONE OF THE BEST I HAVE SEEN. WE, IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, ARE WELL AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL THAT THIS NEW TECHNOLOGY HAS FOR ASSISTING IN OVERCOMING THE FORMIDABLE BARRIERS OF GREAT DISTANCES, SPARSE POPULATIONS, AND LIMITED RESOURCES ASSOCIATED WITH PROVIDING QUALITY EDUCATION IN RURAL COMMUNITIES. THIS NEW TECHNOLOGY OFFERS YOU NEW OPTIONS IN DECIDING THE BEST DELIVERY SYSTEM. IN FACT, IT ALLOWS YOU TO TAILOR YOUR SYSTEM TO A

PARTICULAR SITUATION. IN ONE PLACE IN RURAL IOWA, YOU MAY DECIDE TO USE A MOBILE UNIT WITH STAND-ALONE COMPUTER WORKSTATIONS. IN ANOTHER, YOU MAY EMPLOY A FIXED SITE EDUCATIONAL SETTING THAT IS LINKED TO A DISTANT CENTRALIZED LOCATION BY COMPUTERS WITH TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICES THAT PERMIT THE SHARING OF INFORMATION SUCH AS LESSON PLANS, COMPUTER-BASED INSERVICE TRAINING EXPERIENCES, AND OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO EXPLORE THEM ALL.

RECENTLY, A TELEVISION NETWORK CONDUCTED A SURVEY TO DETERMINE HOW HAPPY AMERICANS WERE WITH WHERE THEY LIVED. THE RESULTS OF THAT SURVEY WAS THE FOLLOWING:

1. 62% OF URBAN RESIDENTS WERE HAPPY WITH WHERE THEY LIVED.
2. 88% OF RURAL RESIDENTS WERE HAPPY WITH WHERE THEY LIVED.

THIS TO ME ACCOUNTS, IN LARGE PART, FOR THE RECENT TREND THAT WE SEE IN THE MIGRATION PATTERNS OF AMERICANS. MORE AND MORE, AMERICANS ARE OPTING TO LIVE IN OUR SMALL TOWNS AND RURAL AREAS. THE REST OF US HAVE COME TO REALIZE SOMETHING THAT YOU WHO HAVE REMAINED IN OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES HAVE KNOWN ALL ALONG - RURAL COMMUNITIES ARE STILL GREAT PLACES IN WHICH TO LIVE AND TO RAISE A FAMILY.

AS YOU STRIVE TO PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF RURAL EDUCATION, I URGE YOU TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER ADOPTING THE STRATEGY THAT HAS WORKED WELL FOR US IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION: THE ISSUANCE OF A FORMAL POLICY STATEMENT ON RURAL EDUCATION AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A STANDING COMMITTEE (A NEW PARTNERSHIP AS IT WERE) TO ADDRESS AND PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF RURAL EDUCATION. I SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT IF ANALOGOUS ACTIONS ARE TAKEN BY STATE AND LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES NATIONWIDE, THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL EDUCATION IS ASSURED. SUCH STATES AS NEW YORK, WHICH HAS APPOINTED A LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO ADDRESS RURAL ISSUES, AND PENNSYLVANIA, WHICH HAS CREATED THROUGH LEGISLATION A RURAL TASK FORCE TO BE COORDINATED BY THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, ARE PIONEERS IN THIS EFFORT.

CERTAINLY IOWA, WITH YOUR MANY PIONEERING EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED TOMORROW AT THIS CONFERENCE, IS ALSO SHOWING THE WAY FOR THE NATION. IF YOU TOPPED OFF ALL OF YOUR GOOD EFFORTS WITH A LONG RANGE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE REST OF THIS CENTURY ON EDUCATION, INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS INVOLVING ALL SECTORS OF EDUCATION, IOWA WOULD DEFINITELY BE NUMBER 1!

ON OCTOBER 17, 1983, I HAD THE DISTINCT HONOR TO FORMALLY ANNOUNCE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S HISTORIC NATIONAL RURAL EDUCATION POLICY STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT. THAT ANNOUNCEMENT WAS GREETED WITH A TWO MINUTE STANDING OVATION BY THE SIX HUNDRED RURAL EDUCATION PRACTITIONERS AND SUPPORTERS IN ATTENDANCE. THAT IS AN EXPERIENCE THAT FEW OF US IN PUBLIC SERVICE ARE PRIVILEGED TO HAVE. IT IS A MOMENT THAT I SHALL FOREVER CHERISH. FOR AS I LOOK BACK ON THAT MOMENT, I REALIZE THAT, THOUGH THE ISSUANCE OF THE POLICY STATEMENT WAS THE RESULT OF DEDICATED PERSISTENCE BY SUPPORTERS OF RURAL EDUCATION OVER MANY YEARS IN SPITE OF A SEEMINGLY INDIFFERENT NATION AT TIMES, IT WAS ONLY A BEGINNING! WE WHO CONTINUE TO CHAMPION THE INTERESTS OF RURAL EDUCATION KNOW THAT MUCH MORE WORK IS STILL AHEAD.